

HONORING GERALDINE CATHERINE MURPHY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Geraldine Catherine Murphy upon her retirement after 40 years of teaching the children of our community.

After graduating from Marygrove College in 1964, Ms. Murphy taught the students of SS. Peter and Paul School in Detroit until 1998. During this time, she served on many educational committees, including the committee which wrote the Language Arts/English curriculum for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

In 1998, Ms. Murphy came to the educational community at St. Edith in Livonia. There is no doubt, her wisdom and guidance were a great asset to our community. The impact she had upon St. Edith will be felt for many years to come, as she will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Geraldine Catherine Murphy, upon her retirement after 40 years of teaching, for her fine service to our community and our country.

HONORING MARK EARL OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mark Earl of Spring Hill, Florida.

Mr. Earl will be recognized this evening at the Hope Awards Benefit for his work on finding missing children. He will receive the Charles B. Wang International Children's Award, given annually by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

In 1994, Mark's concern and vision prompted him to establish a Missing Children's Board in the Walmart store where he worked. Two years later, Walmart expanded on his initiative and installed Missing Children's Boards nationwide. He was promoted to District Loss Prevention Supervisor, and his efforts have resulted in the recovery of over 100 children.

On behalf of these children, their families, and my entire constituency, I would like to formally praise Mark Earl on the floor of this House. His initiative and dedication to his community are to be commended. I am proud to call him my constituent and eager to honor him in person this evening.

VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS: A TRIBUTE TO ARBOR DAY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Village of Western Springs, a township located in the Third Congressional District of Illinois. The Village of Western

Springs officially proclaimed April 30, 2004 as Arbor Day, a special day to set aside for the planting of trees.

This year, Western Springs was recognized and awarded the prestigious title of Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. It is certainly an occasion worthy of special recognition, as Western Springs has shown a commitment and dedication to Arbor Day by planting trees and caring for their woodlands.

Village President John Kravcik publicly declared April 30 as the official Arbor Day for the Village of Western Springs. I was privileged to take part in the Western Springs Arbor Day ceremony with the students of McClure Junior High School, Principal John Chick, Vice Principal Matt Castle and the citizens of Western Springs. We were honored with the presence of the Western Springs Garden Club, including Ann Gindorf and President Mary Kubalanza, Fred Rodriguez and Jack Lund of the Western Springs Memorial V.F.W. Post 10778, and Father Tom Bernas of St. Richard's Parish who offered the ceremony's prayer.

I would like to pay special tribute to the Arbor Day essay winners Jenni Breslin, Schuyler Hilton, and Nicky Galvez, who shared their literary works to commemorate this day. It is essential for children to learn the importance and value of trees to the environment and our community, in order to ensure future generations will enjoy greener, healthier, and more beautiful places. The students of McClure Junior High School displayed their commitment to protecting and promoting the community's natural beauty by planting a tree on school grounds during the ceremony.

In the 128 years since its founding, Arbor Day has become a holiday celebrated in cities across America and nations throughout the world. Arbor Day draws particular attention to the part trees play in our lives and in the significant ways they beautify and enrich our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the people of Western Springs are taking the time to celebrate Arbor Day. I wish them the best of success in their tree-planting efforts and I strongly hope that more Americans will follow their positive example.

SALUTE TO JOHN RYAN, SR.

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of my constituents from Cortland County, New York, John Ryan Sr., for 51 exceptional years of service to the Homer Fire Department. Mr. Ryan joined the Homer Fire Department in 1953, upon his return from service in the Korean War. His commitment to public service for his country and his community is unmatched.

His father was a volunteer firefighter and served as fire chief in the 1940's. Mr. Ryan also served as fire chief for four years beginning in 1970. He has presided over the Cortland County Fire Chiefs Association and the County Fire Advisory Board. The love of firefighting has been passed down to his children and grandchildren, as his son, John

Ryan Jr., serves as the current fire chief and his other sons, Steve and Mike, also serve as firefighters. His granddaughter was the fourth generation Ryan to belong to the fire department before she moved from the area.

It is this kind of dedication and commitment to community that makes John Ryan Sr. such a legacy in Homer, NY. Not only has he answered the call to community service, but he has also instilled that same spirit in his children and grandchildren. I thank Mr. Ryan for his years of service, and I know the town of Homer thanks him as well.

IN HONOR OF COACH RICK ORTEGA'S ELECTION INTO THE NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Rick Ortega of St. Mark's School of Texas. I am pleased to represent St. Mark's in Congress, and have been impressed with the quality of education produced by the school. My oldest son Bill currently attends St. Mark's, and one of the staffers in my Washington office is an alumnus of this college preparatory school.

Coach Ortega has been a valued member of the faculty since coming to St. Mark's in 1982. Now in his third decade of service to St. Mark's, Coach Ortega has been elected as a member of the Class of 2004 for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I am very proud of Coach Ortega's election, and I know firsthand the quality of the wrestling program at St. Mark's. My son Bill is currently in the middle school wrestling program and the results of the wrestling program speak volumes to Coach Ortega's dedication to the young men that he educates.

Wrestling is one of the few sports that a small school such as St. Mark's can compete in against larger high schools in Texas that have thousands of students. From 1992 to 1994, St. Mark's "three-peated" as Texas High School Wrestling Champions. St. Mark's three straight championships could not have been possible without the leadership and dedication of Coach Ortega and the many wrestlers that he inspires on a daily basis.

During his time at St. Mark's and his prior stint as the Head Wrestling Coach at Burges High School in El Paso, Texas, Coach Ortega has amassed an impressive winning record. In his 32 years of coaching, he has an overall dual meet record of 532 wins compared with only 80 losses. He won seven Texas State Championships, and five Prep State Championships. This is in addition to being Texas State Runner-up six times. During his time at St. Mark's, Coach Ortega has won 18 Southwest Preparatory Championships in 22 seasons, a very impressive record in the conference. On the individual level, Rick Ortega has coached 59 state champion wrestlers, and 53 prep all-Americans.

Coach Ortega himself was a State Wrestling Champion in New Mexico in 1966. He has a natural love for wrestling and for those that pursue the sport. Coach Ortega inspires discipline on the mats, and an emphasis on nutritional wellness off of the mats. His personal